

Tutor Tip

Using a Newspaper in the Classroom

Here are some suggestions that can be used with **any** issue of a newspaper with intermediate and advanced learners.

1. Small group activity: writing and answering questions

- Divide class into small groups and ask each group to choose a different story. Each group reads & discusses the story together.
- Give each person in each group a small piece of paper on which to write a question. (Each group should have a different color.)
- Learners write their questions and trade them with another group's questions. They read the story, write the answers to the questions and hand them back.

2. Small group activity: summarizing

- Select several stories that you want the learners to read and summarize. Divide the class into groups. Each person reads a different story and then tells the others in the group what the story was about.

3. Create a headline

- Cut out stories without their headlines. Ask learners to read the stories and write headlines for them. Compare their headlines with the ones that are in the newspaper.

4. Write the caption

- Cut out some of the pictures from the newspaper without any captions.
- Give learners the pictures. Ask them to write their own caption for each picture. Compare with the actual captions.

5. Interview activity

- Learners write these two questions and answer them for themselves (after reading the newspaper). "What story did you like?" "Why did you like it?"
- Learners ask their classmates the same questions and write their answers. (e.g.: "Rosa liked the story about sports. She liked it because she likes to play soccer.")

6. Jigsaw reading for newspaper stories

Choose a story that can be divided into three or four parts. Or choose three or four different stories.

The learners are divided into small groups, called EXPERT groups. Each expert group is given one part of the text to learn. The purpose of these groups is to enable learners to help each other study the material.

The learners are then re-divided into HOME groups. Each home group has representatives from each of the expert groups. Each member of the group now teaches and shares his/her part of the text with the rest of the home group. The time given to the "sharing" phase depends on the difficulty and length of the material. Learners must not show their part of the text, but must present it orally.